

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

April 11, 1972 - a.m.

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PARTICIPANTS: General Pauley
Dr. Kissinger
General Haig
Commander Howe

General Pauley: The weather is still overcast in MR-1 and North Vietnam; there is a slight break in MR-2. The depression over Burma which we thought would help us has now terminated to the North and won't have much effect.

Kissinger: When you get out of this war you are going to have to get new airplanes. If you can't fly unless you have a 5,000 foot ceiling you need a new airplane. Right now the only people we can fight are the Arabs.

General Pauley: General Abrams is trying to develop some better targets using MSQ and Loran.

Kissinger: He is blowing the last chance we are going to get.

General Pauley: Yesterday the gun fire support ships stood down for replenishment.

Turning to B-52's local Vietnamese officials from Dong Ha reported that B-52 strikes (on April 8) destroyed 27 tanks, 3 artillery pieces and caused 100 KBA (his notes indicate there were also numerous secondary explosions)

Kissinger: How many strikes were there in MR-1 yesterday?

General Pauley: 21 (his notes show 24)

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Kissinger: Were these mostly outside the SAM envelope? We never seem to go in there. Is this because of the SAMs or are there no targets to key on?

General Pauley: The B-52s have a strong jamming capability. If there are targets they will go in. The difficulty is in acquiring the targets and this is especially tough with strong air defenses.

Kissinger: Will the weather be better 48 hours from now?

General Pauley: The best we can say is that we hope so.

Kissinger: In two weeks we have not had one day of good flying weather. We are doing something wrong in designing our airplanes. As I recall, last March we could only fly one day. Last December, we could fly no days.

General Pauley: We could get up there for fixed targets but not for route reconnaissance.

Kissinger: Are there any arc light strikes scheduled for MR-3?

General Pauley: Three are targetted.

Kissinger: Is General Vogt out there now?

General Pauley: Yes. He has arrived there by now.

Kissinger: It would appear there were no B-52s in MR-3.

General Pauley: They are being targetted in competition with other requirements. Preliminary EDA for two days indicates that we can expect high KBA. The BDA was light yesterday because of weather conditions.

General Pauley: There are no large thrusts in MR-1. There were a total of eight engagements and 325 KIA.

Kissinger: Yesterday I saw movies on TV on the weather in MR-1. The sun was shining. I don't understand why they couldn't fly. ~~The help~~ The military has screamed for us to take the wraps off -- now that we take it off, they can't go.

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General Pauley: As I stated earlier, there were 385 (said 325 before) KIA in eight encounters. All of these were initiated by friendly forces.